

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and
Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications
Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

NEWS RELEASE
March 28, 2003

Contacts: Margot Bucholtz 541-383-5536
Dennis Dietrich 541-383-5590
Steve Castillo 541-416-6700 (BLM)

Woodcutting Permits To Go On Sale

Central Oregon – The opening of woodcutting season on the Deschutes National Forest will be on April 11 this year. While most areas should be accessible by that date, many roads will be wet and muddy and thus susceptible to resource damage. Cutters are encouraged to not travel on roads where their vehicle may cause rutting of the road surface. The Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management will open on that day also, while the Ochoco National Forest opens on May 1.

Opening dates:

Deschutes National Forest
April 11

Ochoco National Forest
May 1

Prineville Bureau of Land
Management – April 11

Firewood cutting maps and permits will be available at Forest Service and BLM offices and several vendors throughout Central Oregon. The price per cord remains the same as previous years at \$10 per cord, with each permit being for a minimum of two cords, or \$20 minimum per permit. This minimum helps to offset administrative costs associated with issuing permits.

Vendors issue firewood permits in cooperation with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management offices in Central Oregon. Up to a \$1.00 per permit service fee may be added to each permit issued by a vendor to help defray their cost of issuing the permits. Permits issued at government offices will not include this fee.

In addition to the firewood cutting sites identified on the maps in the Firewood Synopsis obtained with each permit, a few small areas with limited wood may open and close during the season. Ask your local office for the location and status of these areas.

Most remaining firewood on public lands is small and on the ground. Trees that have fallen over the winter are likely to be cut and removed by woodcutters this spring. Firewood supplies will be limited for late season woodcutters.

Spring is the courtship, breeding and nesting season for many birds. Avoid cutting in areas where you notice nests, holes or other activity that suggest the snag is being used as a home for wildlife.

For more information contact your local Forest Service or BLM office, or visit the Forest Service Central Oregon website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon, "Passes and Permits" and then "Firewood".

-end-

